

From: Michael W. Shelton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/20/01 12:07pm
Subject: Let Justice Prevail

As a long-time network administrator, I have long suffered from the abuses perpetrated by Microsoft's hegemony in the sphere of small-computer operating systems. Whereas my suffering is not sufficient for the law to require relief, Microsoft's actions have been determined to violate the law, and in this penalty phase of the case, penalties should be meted out appropriately. It is beginning to look like that may not happen, and that computer consumers and users will continue to suffer. Thus, I'm offering my opinion.

- * Users should not be forced to buy Microsoft products as part of the purchase of a new computer. The cost of those products should be added on, and their inclusion made optional. Thus, a computer without software could be configured with software products of the buyer's choice at prices that reflect true competition between those products, rather than settling for Microsoft's products because they are "included" or add "only a few dollars" to the price.
- * Microsoft's file formats should be made public, so that other vendors' programs can read them, even on other operating systems. Also, the Windows application programming interface should be opened to allow other vendors to write programs for the Window operating system with the same advantages that Microsoft's internal programmers have.
- * If Microsoft insists on developing its own networking protocols, those protocols should be made public, so that the company cannot leverage its hegemony into control over even more of the internet.

Whereas I am, like most Americans, appalled by the events of September 11, there is no excuse for sacrificing that which makes America great in a headlong rush to concentrate on the solution of a single problem at the expense of all others. This is not a time for us to be sacrificing civil rights or to knuckle under to corporate greed, however it may be clothed. Microsoft has been found, appropriately and finally, to be in violation of the law, and an appropriate remedy should be levied. We will all (including Microsoft, if you believe in that most capitalistic of values: free and open competition) benefit from a leveling of the field and from the business-as-usual continuity of the proper application of the rule of law.

Thank you for the opportunity to make my voice heard.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Shelton

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If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

-Derek Bok

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Michael W. Shelton

1537 North Lakeside Ridge Drive

Sand Springs, OK 74063

phone 918/245-0510

Mike@MikeRocosm.com

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